

your attention to, for instance, the matter of the discrepancy between the wages *paid* and the wages *allowed under the charter*? These are merely points in practical sanitation; do they touch close upon practical politics? The Canal Zone, 400 square miles, is clean and healthy because it is well administered; San Francisco, 80 square miles, is filthy and will never be clean while it continues to be administered *a la* "practical politics."

The *Long Island Medical Journal* is published monthly by "the Associated Physicians of Long Island," is edited by Paul M. **WILL THEY** Pilcher and managed by a publication committee consisting of **FEEL SHAME?** Drs. Pilcher, Overton, Terry, Donahue and Bacon. One wonders whether these distinguished physicians will ever feel shame at their participation in the doubtful profits of the shameless nostrum business which, through the pages of their publication, they aid in exploiting. Glancing through the pages of the journal which the physicians of Long Island own and control, one finds that they either have no knowledge of the revelations of fraud, dishonesty and trickery which have been published in the *Journal A. M. A.*, or they are willing to participate in the frauds and derive a measure of profit from them by publishing the advertisements of preparations which have been shown up repeatedly. What sort of balm do they apply to their consciences, it would be interesting to know, that permits these physicians of standing, gentlemen of repute and, presumably, of self-respect, members of a learned society—that permits such men to accept money from, and aid in continuing the exploitation of, such a thing as "antikamnia," for instance? This surely is an interesting problem in psychology, for in all human probability these physicians are, individually, honest and upright men who would scorn to barter their good names for some dirty antikamnia dollars; yet, collectively and officially, they are willing to advertise the stuff in the journal of their organization. It would be interesting to know whether any single member of the "Associated Physicians of Long Island" has ever protested against the advertisement of this or a number of other nostrums in the pages of his journal.

It is unfortunate that we have not space in which to print in full the exceedingly interesting essay on the Abbott Alkaloidal Co., and **ALKALOIDAL** its methods, which appeared in the **FINANCE.** the March 14th issue of the *Journal A. M. A.* The statement is most illuminating. The Alkaloidal company supplies the medicines; a related company—the Clinic Publishing Company—issues a journal which, in almost its every page, booms and boosts the output; the promoters also issue a number of text-books in which it may be found that the only really safe medicines for physicians to use are those made by the Abbott Alkaloidal Co. Never, since

the early days of the *Medical Brief*, has a supposedly scientific medical journal so openly and persistently been used to promote the commercial interests of the proprietor and his proprietary preparations. Incidentally, and in passing, it may be remarked that some time ago the office of the *Journal of Clinical Medicine* burned, and the mailing list with it; the statement was made as coming from Dr. Abbott, shortly after that event, that he re-established his mailing list by going through the American Medical Directory and putting on his list the name of every member of the association which appeared in the directory. We can not vouch for the truth of this, but from the number of copies which reach our own members in California, in some occult fashion, it would seem at least possible. Not content with the education of the medical profession in the paramount value of the Abbott medicines through the pages of his own journal, we find that "While the president of the Abbott Alkaloidal Company (Dr. W. C. Abbott) is not in active practice, he has been most liberal in giving the medical profession his experiences, for he has contributed more original articles to more medical journals than any other man in the country." (Most remarkable fecundity! And from a man who is not in practice!) Again we read: "Is there any explanation of such unparalleled literary fecundity? Examination of the forty-eight articles listed shows that at least two-thirds of them advocate the use of some product of his company. Is there any casual relation between these facts?"

Thus we see that the Abbott Alkaloidal Company kindly furnishes the goods and the literature recommending them—and **PROFIT-SHARING** them only—and booms **EXPLOITATION.** them in many and various medical (?) journals in many sections of the country; it has occurred that almost the same article appeared in three several places, credited to three different men, all booming alkaloids—and particularly Abbott's. And then the Company wanted more money; so a beautiful plan was devised and launched, well calculated to work the profession still more. This was no less than to have a greater number of men using the products of the Abbott Alkaloidal Company from reasons of self-interest. Groups of "Guaranteed Participating Co-operative Bonds" were to be issued and sold only to physicians, and as the dividends would depend upon the amount of business, those who bought the "bonds" would naturally use or order their patients to use as much of the Abbott goods as they could. The Abbott advertisements of these "bonds" lay stress upon the success of the investment "*if we all pull together.*" The *Journal A. M. A.* retained a good lawyer to investigate these "bonds," and he reported that the "guaranteed bond" was "of no greater value than a simple unsecured promissory note for an equal amount." This certainly has some of the earmarks of "high finance" with a vengeance. It further ap-